

2011 University of Washington Graduates, One Year After Graduation: Overview

Debbie E McGhee and Lioudmila Kourenina
April 2013

INTRODUCTION

This Office of Educational Assessment (OEA) report outlines the methodology for the survey of 2011 University of Washington (UW) graduates nine to twelve months post-graduation. This survey, which have been conducted annually or biennially since 1978, asks undergraduate and graduate degree recipients about post-graduate activities (especially employment and continuing education activities) and educational outcomes. This document provides links to the survey instruments and to several summary tables.

METHODOLOGY

Population

The original population included 12,436 persons who received a degree from the University of Washington during the 2011 calendar year. After removing those cases with missing or non-domestic addresses, there remained 11,958 cases. The final sample included 8007 undergraduate and 3951 graduate students.

Instruments

The paper version of the [undergraduate questionnaire](#) was a two-page scannable form. The majority of questions were presented using a closed-ended, forced-choice format. The questionnaire contained items concerning educational and occupational status. In addition, alumni were asked to rate their own level of ability in a variety of skill areas, the importance of those skills in relation to their current activities, and their satisfaction with the UW's contribution to their development in those areas. Respondents also provided global ratings of their UW education, and provided information about their volunteer and philanthropic activities. Open-ended questions included current job title, name of employer, field of study, and institution of continuing education.

The paper version of the [graduate/professional student questionnaire](#) was a single-page, two-sided, scannable form. Items in the questionnaire were very similar to those in the undergraduate version. Items were reworded as necessary to fit graduate and professional education).

Mailings

The undergraduate and graduate/professional degree recipient populations were surveyed simultaneously. Graduates who received their degrees winter quarter 2011 were sent questionnaires beginning in early March, 2012, and spring quarter graduates were sent questionnaires in early May. Summer and autumn quarter graduates were surveyed in early October.

Questionnaires were mailed along with a personalized cover letter, a business reply envelope, and a University of Washington decal (intended to be an incentive to respond). A second copy of the questionnaire, personalized letter, and business reply envelope were sent to all alumni who had not returned completed questionnaires within three weeks. The cover letters informed alumni that they could respond via a Web-based questionnaire if preferred.

Shown below are response rates by degree level and graduation quarter. Response rates were calculated by reducing the size of the original mailing by the number of questionnaires returned as undeliverable.

	Population N	Undeliv- erable	Completed questionnaires	Percentage returned
Undergraduate				
Winter	1236	56	278	22.5
Spring	5154	272	1233	23.9
Summer	1389	175	263	18.9
Autumn	1167	103	226	19.4
TOTAL	8946	606	2000	22.4
Graduate/Professional				
Winter	615	17	228	37.1
Spring	2639	77	1004	38.0
Summer	608	36	259	42.6
Autumn	557	33	220	39.5
TOTAL	4419	163	1711	38.7

RESULTS

Summary reports by department or program are available in PDF format:

[2011 Graduate Survey Departmental Results](#)